



3/14/12

Judicial Branch Staff:

With the Governor's press release on Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week (see below) this is a good time to remind Judicial Branch Employees of the Supreme Court's Personnel Policy on office closing:

OFFICE CLOSING DUE TO WEATHER

"In stormy weather, employees should use their best judgment in trying to get to work. Employees not choosing to work during adverse weather conditions will have to use accrued vacation leave, earned compensatory time, leave without pay, or if possible, may be allowed to make up missed work time within the work week. If the weather is so severe that most businesses remain closed, the absence will be excused."

It is also a good time to check your Continuity of Operations Plan to be sure that names and contact information is current. A model COOP plan is found on the Judicial Branch Web site: <http://www.supremecourt.ne.gov/rules/misc/COOP.pdf>.

Gov. Heineman Encourages Nebraskans to Be Prepared for Severe Weather

(Lincoln, Neb.) Gov. Dave Heineman today is encouraging Nebraskans to be prepared for severe weather. The spring and summer months are the most vulnerable times for severe weather outbreaks.

"Last year Nebraska saw record flooding along the Platte and Missouri Rivers," said Gov. Heineman. "Promoting preparedness for flooding and severe weather can help prevent serious injury and loss of life and property across our state. We encourage everyone to take steps to ensure their families, homes and businesses are prepared for a possible emergency."

Flooding, thunderstorms, tornados and lightning are all potential hazards facing Nebraska. Last year was a record-breaking year for tornados across the United States with more than 1,700 tornadoes being reported. There were more than 1,000 weather-related fatalities across the nation as well as more than 8,000 injuries. In Nebraska, there were nearly 20 tornadoes on June 20 alone. Planning and preparation are crucial during severe weathers months.

“This year Nebraska had its first-ever confirmed tornado in the month of February,” said Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy. “We need to let this be a reminder to be prepared. The devastating impacts of extreme events can be reduced through improved readiness.”

“Individuals need to recognize hazards and be prepared to act appropriately,” said Al Berndt, Assistant Director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency. “In this day and age there is no reason to be unaware of approaching severe weather.”

Weather radios, phone apps, private company alerts, local, television, radio and the weather service, are available to provide information on approaching severe weather. Nebraskans are urged to find a trusted source and use it to stay informed.

Gov. Heineman proclaimed March 19-23 as Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week.

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